

1 December 2008

## Chem-Bio News

### 1. ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION DOCUMENTS DESCRIBE FBI FOCUS ON WRONG

**SUSPECT:** *"The FBI investigation into the deadly 2001 anthrax mail attacks was misguided by hearsay and a suspect's untimely purchase of antibiotic drugs, according to court documents released yesterday."*

**2. NUKE FACILITY RAID AN INSIDE JOB?:** *"Eyewitness Talks To 60 Minutes About Brazen Assault On South African Nuclear Facility [Pelindaba]"*

### 3. U.S. AND BANGLADESH AGREE TO SCAN SEAPORT CARGO AT THE PORT OF

**CHITTAGONG:** *"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that it has signed an agreement to work with the Bangladesh Ministry of Shipping and other government agencies to install radiation detection equipment and associated infrastructure at the port of Chittagong."*

**4. NEW STUDY INDICATES SMALLPOX VACCINATION EFFECTIVE FOR DECADES:** *"In a study published in the December 2008 issue of The American Journal of Medicine, researchers found that lifetime protection is obtained from just one vaccination, even when that vaccination occurred as much as 88 years ago."*

**5. REPORT SOUNDS ALARM OVER BIOTERROR:** *"Due for release next week, a draft of the study warns that future bioterrorists may use new technology to make synthetic versions of killers such as Ebola, or genetically modified germs designed to resist ordinary vaccines and antibiotics."*

## CB Daily Report

## Chem-Bio News

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### ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION DOCUMENTS DESCRIBE FBI FOCUS ON WRONG SUSPECT

Global Security Newswire

November 26, 2008

*"The FBI investigation into the deadly 2001 anthrax mail attacks was misguided by hearsay and a suspect's untimely purchase of antibiotic drugs, according to court documents released yesterday."*

*"The search-warrant affidavit by FBI Special Agent Mark Morin, released yesterday among other related documents, also noted that Hatfill had picked up prescriptions for the powerful antibiotic Ciprofloxacin exactly two days before each of the two anthrax mailings. He later denied taking the drug at all, the affidavit says."*

*Hatfill's attorney expressed doubt yesterday over that assertion, saying that Hatfill had*

legitimate medical reasons for taking the drug.

"It's well known that Dr. Hatfill had Cipro prescribed to him after nasal surgery" which he underwent in mid-September 2001, attorney Thomas Connolly told the Los Angeles Times. The affidavit also reports that Hatfill received Cipro prescriptions twice before in 2001."

The full article can be found at: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/ts\\_20081126\\_2933.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/ts_20081126_2933.php)

[Return to Top](#)

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## **NUKE FACILITY RAID AN INSIDE JOB?**

60 Minutes (CBS News.com)

November 23, 2008

"It happened just after one o'clock at night. We heard a sound inside the building," remembers Anton Gerber, who has worked at Pelindaba for 30 years and is the chief of the plant's emergency control center.

He was in the control room when masked men broke in. "There's a crack in the door. And I looked through this and I saw this four armed gunmen entering the passages is coming straight to us in the control room."

Gerber says all four were armed.

The men had breached a 10,000 volt fence, passed security cameras, and walked three quarters of a mile to the control room that monitors alarms and responds to emergencies. Gerber called the security office, just three minutes away."

"The facts that we know were recorded. A camera at the fence taped the intruders, but guards who were supposed to be watching the monitors didn't report the men. A phone log that 60 Minutes has seen shows that 24 minutes passed between Gerber's call for help and the arrival of security. Gerber suspects someone in security was in on the plot. And he's suing Pelindaba."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/11/20/60minutes/main4621623.shtml>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **U.S. AND BANGLADESH AGREE TO SCAN SEAPORT CARGO AT THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG**

US National Nuclear Security Administration

November 17, 2008

"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that it has signed an

agreement to work with the Bangladesh Ministry of Shipping and other government agencies to install radiation detection equipment and associated infrastructure at the port of Chittagong. The port of Chittagong is a major cargo container hub in South Asia and a strategic transit point in the international maritime trading system. In addition, NNSA will provide training to Bangladeshi officials to use this equipment to ensure sustainable operations."

"The work is part of the Megaports Initiative, a program under the NNSA's Second Line of Defense Program, which aims to strengthen the capability of foreign governments to deter, detect, and interdict illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials across international borders and through the global maritime shipping system. The Megaports Initiative provides radiation detection equipment, training, and technical support to key international seaports to scan cargo containers for nuclear and other radioactive materials."

The full article can be found at: <http://nnsa.energy.gov/2206.htm>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **NEW STUDY INDICATES SMALLPOX VACCINATION EFFECTIVE FOR DECADES**

EurekAlert!

November 30, 2008

"Although naturally occurring smallpox was eradicated in 1977, there is concern that bioterrorists might obtain smallpox from a laboratory and release it into the population. Under such circumstances, the supply of smallpox vaccine may be insufficient for universal administration. In a study published in the December 2008 issue of The American Journal of Medicine, researchers found that lifetime protection is obtained from just one vaccination, even when that vaccination occurred as much as 88 years ago. They conclude that in the event of a smallpox bioterrorist attack, vaccinia smallpox vaccine should be used first on individuals who have not been vaccinated previously.

Examining 246 participants of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging, investigators from the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health found permanent immunity was conferred by vaccination or by survival from an active smallpox infection. In the sample, 209 subjects were vaccinated one or more times 13 to 88 years prior to the study; an additional 18 had had childhood smallpox, and 29 with no history of vaccination or smallpox were included."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-11/ehs-nsi112608.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-11/ehs-nsi112608.php)

The original article can be found at: "Immunity from Smallpox Vaccine Persists for Decades: : A Longitudinal Study" by Dennis D. Taub, William B. Ershler, Mark Janowski, Andrew Artz, Michael L. Key, Julie McKelvey, Denis Muller, Bernard Moss, Luigi Ferrucci, Patricia L. Duffey and Dan L. Longo. It appears in The American Journal of Medicine, Volume 121, Issue 12 (December 2008) published by Elsevier.

[Return to Top](#)

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## **REPORT SOUNDS ALARM OVER BIOTERROR**

By Joby Warrick

The Washington Post

November 30, 2008

"Seven years after the 2001 anthrax attacks, a congressionally ordered study finds a growing threat of biological terrorism and calls for aggressive defenses on par with those used to prevent a terrorist nuclear detonation.

Due for release next week, a draft of the study warns that future bioterrorists may use new technology to make synthetic versions of killers such as Ebola, or genetically modified germs designed to resist ordinary vaccines and antibiotics.

The bipartisan report faults the Bush administration for devoting insufficient resources to prevent an attack and says U.S. policies have at times impeded international biodefense efforts while promoting the rapid growth of a network of domestic laboratories possessing the world's most dangerous pathogens."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/29/AR2008112901921.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

[Return to Top](#)

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